

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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DRAFTED BY ARA/BC/B:MWCOTTER:BDT

APPROVED BY ARA:JBKUBISCH

ARA/BC:JEKARKASHIAN

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R 030028Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

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SUBJECT:FAREWELL CALL BY AMBASSADOR EDMUNDO VALENCIA

1. OUTGOING BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR EDMUNDO VALENCIA IBANEZ PAID A COURTESY FAREWELL CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH ON AUGUST 1. THE AMBASSADOR THANKED MR. KUBISCH FOR HIS AND THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE DURING THE AMBASSADOR'S THREE YEARS HERE. HE SAID THAT HE WAS FORTUNATE TO HAVE SERVED DURING A PERIOD OF UNIFORMLY GOOD, PRODUCTIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE AMBASSADOR LAUDED THE ABSENCE OF SERIOUS BILATERAL PROBLEMS DURING HIS TENURE. HE NOTED THAT THE PROBLEM OF THE SALE OF STRATEGIC MATERIALS HAS NOT BECOME A BONE OF CONTENTION DUE TO CONTINUED HIGH MARKET PRICES FOR THOSE MATERIALS.

2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH ASKED THE AMBASSADOR FOR HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN BOLIVIA. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THE POLITICAL PARTIES ARE UNHAPPY, HAVING BEEN OUSTED FROM THE GOB. HE SAID THE GOB IS NOW, IN EFFECT, A "MILITARY GOVERNMENT JUNTA" WHICH HE THOUGHT A GOOD THING. HE EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE ANNOUNCED ELECTIONS BUT NOTED THAT THEY SHOULD BE HELD WITHIN 8 TO 10 MONTHS INSTEAD OF THE FOURTEEN ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT BANZER. WHILE REFUSING TO PREDICT BANZER'S FUTURE, THE

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AMBASSADOR SAID HE THINKS THE ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD

ON SCHEDULE.

3. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD HAVE LIKE TO RETURN TO BOLIVIA NOW BUT THAT IT "IS NOT YET POSSIBLE". SINCE HE IS REMAINING IN THE US HE IS VERY PLEASED WITH THE IDB JOB WHICH WILL ALLOW HIM TO CONTINUE SERVING HIS COUNTRY.

4. THE AMBASSADOR AGAIN THANKED MR. KUBISCH FOR HIS PERSONAL ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION AND FOR THAT OF HIS STAFF AND OTHER DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. MR. KUBISCH THANKED THE AMBASSADOR, WISHED HIM SUCCESS IN HIS NEW POSITION AND INVITED HIM TO MAINTAIN THE CLOSE, CORDIAL RELATIONSHIPS WHICH HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED WITH THE DEPARTMENT. KISSINGER

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